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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Wednesday March 2, 1977

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Wednesday, March 2, 1977.

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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USSR-US: Human Rights

25X1 [] The Soviet Foreign Ministry has protested contacts between members of the US embassy and Soviet dissident Andrey Sakharov. The protest could presage harassment of embassy officers who deal with the dissident community in Moscow. The USSR has also taken concrete steps to demonstrate that US actions on human rights will hamper some aspects of relations between the two countries.

25X1 [] Ambassador Toon was summoned to the Foreign Ministry yesterday to receive a strongly worded protest message from Deputy Foreign Minister Korniyenko. The message termed embassy contacts with Sakharov "completely inadmissible" and demanded that "such activities, for which the embassy bears full responsibility, cease."

25X1 [] Soviet media have not yet mentioned President Carter's letter to Sakharov or the President's statements on human rights in the USSR. The delay suggests that a Soviet response to the Sakharov affair has occasioned intense internal debate within the leadership.

25X1 [] In a related development, the Soviets gave a particularly cold reception to a US delegation that visited Moscow late last month to arrange a long-term exchange of physicians. The chairman of the USSR-USA Friendship Association, who had extended the invitation to the American group, refused to meet with it. A deputy minister of health told the chief of the delegation that President Carter's statements are making bilateral exchanges "difficult to arrange."

25X1 [] In meetings with the delegates, the Soviets harangued them on human rights problems in the US and pointedly refused to discuss future exchanges. This is the first time the Soviets have directly linked a bilateral program to the human rights debate.

25X1 [] On Monday, Moscow arrested two Soviet Jewish activists who were trying to enter the US embassy in the company of an embassy officer. This is the first time in some years that the Soviets have made arrests in such circumstances. The Soviet

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authorities later released the two activists, who were trying to deliver a report on Moscow's violations of the Helsinki agreements. The embassy registered a protest at the Soviet Foreign Ministry yesterday.

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[] Moscow has intensified its polemics on human rights following its strongly worded demarche to the US government two weeks ago over US statements in support of Soviet dissidents. Commentaries in *Pravda* and on Moscow radio have warned that US statements could adversely affect efforts to improve relations.

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[] A *Pravda* commentator, participating in a panel discussion on Moscow domestic radio on February 20, noted that the US "parallel course" of limiting nuclear arms and interfering in Soviet internal affairs was "either a grandiose error or simply a provocation." This was the most direct Soviet statement raising the possibility of linking negotiations on strategic arms to the current controversy over human rights.

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[] Soviet officials and commentators nonetheless continue to stress Moscow's interest in pursuing arms limitations with the US, particularly a SALT II accord. The Soviet media apparently are still under instructions not to criticize President Carter or his administration by name. A Soviet Foreign Ministry official commented privately last week that Moscow would like to see the public furor die down and "quiet diplomacy" return. []

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UGANDA: Situation Report

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[] The Ugandan charge in Washington confirmed yesterday that all US citizens in Uganda are free to leave the country or travel within Uganda without restriction. It remains unclear whether President Amin intends to reschedule his meeting with the Americans, which he has postponed twice.

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[] The charge repeated Uganda's invitation to the US government to send a representative to "see for himself" how safe all Americans are in Uganda.

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[] Some of the approximately 240 US citizens in Uganda may now leave, but most will probably remain in the country.

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25X1 [] One American tourist who arrived in Uganda last week was permitted to cross into Kenya on Monday. He informed the US embassy in Nairobi that several Americans had told him they had been stopped by Ugandan police but released when they said they were tourists. Apparently no US citizens have been physically harassed.

25X1 []//The American said Kampala appeared calm and that few troops were in evidence.

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WEST GERMANY: Energy Debate

25X1 [] The West German government has scheduled a debate on energy policy--primarily the nuclear power program--for mid-April.

25X1 [] The government's call for a debate stems in part from concern that the public and many Bundestag deputies are not strongly behind the nuclear program. The government hopes that a discussion of the consequences of inaction and of options will increase support for constructing nuclear power plants in West Germany.

25X1 [] Politicians in all major parties are uncertain about which side to take in the debate. They realize that a decision to reduce the scope of the nuclear program or to abandon the program would arouse opposition, especially from the trade unions and would almost certainly hurt the economy. At the same time, they know that building more nuclear plants is a troubling issue for the public.

25X1 [] The nuclear issue has spawned a number of environmentalist and other citizens' groups with members ranging from moderates to extremists. These groups are especially troubling to politicians who fear that, because they are a departure from the normal political organizations, they could weaken the traditional party structure.

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[REDACTED] The West Germans meanwhile have decided to build Germany's integrated nuclear fuel cycle center--including a reprocessing plant and storage facilities for radioactive waste--near a village less than four miles from the East German border. Federal authorities and representatives of the ten state governments recently decided to delay the construction of new reactors until storage facilities for radioactive waste were established.

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[REDACTED] The decision could still be overturned because of local opposition and because of the need for extensive consultations with East German authorities. These talks probably will not be fruitful. The salt layers in which the radioactive waste would be buried extend across the border into an area where the East Germans have been test-drilling for natural gas deposits.

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NIGERIA: Policy Toward Arab States

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[REDACTED] In a speech at the University of Ibadan last month, Nigerian External Affairs Commissioner Garba expressed his country's unhappiness over Arab insensitivity to southern Africa's struggle for majority rule. Garba said Nigeria expects the full support of Arab states on southern African issues in exchange for African support for Palestinians.

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[REDACTED] Garba's speech marked the second time recently that a high Nigerian official had expressed reservations about the country's relationship with Arab states. Nigeria's head of state, Lieutenant General Obasanjo, told visiting US Ambassador Andrew Young that Nigeria was not under Arab influence with regard to Israel.

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[REDACTED] Garba is expected to reiterate Nigeria's unhappiness over lack of Arab support next week when the first Afro-Arab summit conference is held in Cairo. If Arab support is not demonstrated, a shift in Nigeria's Middle Eastern policy could emerge.

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[REDACTED] Such a shift in policy would probably lead to less vociferous Nigerian support for Arab causes in the UN and other international organizations. We do not expect Nigeria to undertake any rapprochement with Israel. [REDACTED]

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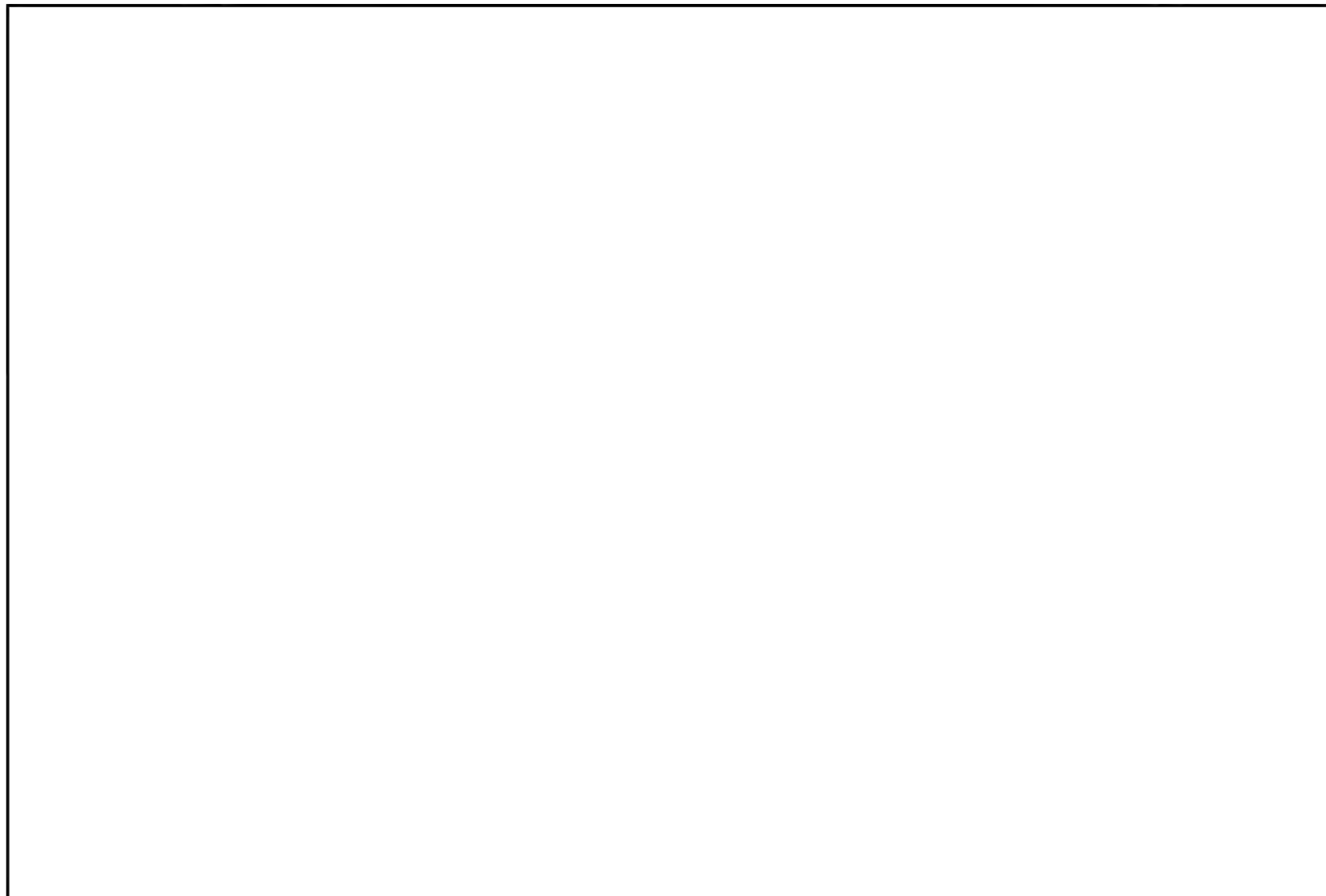
INTERNATIONAL: Afro-Arab Summit

25X1 [REDACTED] Black African nations will probably press the Arab states for increased economic assistance at the first Afro-Arab summit, which convenes in Cairo on March 7. The Africans believe they have received insufficient financial aid from the Arabs in light of their continued African support for Arab political positions.

25X1 [REDACTED] //While the African states will not get everything they want from the summit, the Arabs may increase somewhat the level of their assistance to the continent. The Arab League voted in January to increase by an unspecified amount the capital of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa. The bank and its Special Fund probably would be used rather than the African Development Bank to provide assistance to the Africans because the Arabs strongly favor use of the multilateral agencies they control.// [REDACTED]

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PHILIPPINES: Negotiations Threatened

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[REDACTED] President Marcos' determination to carry out a plebiscite in the southern Philippines has brought negotiations in Libya with Philippine Muslim rebels close to a collapse.

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[REDACTED] The initial round of Libyan-sponsored talks in December resulted in a cease-fire and agreement for a Muslim autonomous zone. The agreement did not call for a plebiscite, but Marcos contends that one was implicit in references to following Philippine "constitutional processes" in establishing the autonomous zone.

25X1 [redacted] The Muslims and their Libyan backers deny that a plebiscite was part of the December understanding; they know Marcos intends to reduce the size of the zone by generating a negative vote by Christian majorities in three of the 13 provinces proposed for inclusion. Marcos says he has a transcript of a phone conversation in which Libyan President Qadhafi indicated agreement for a plebiscite.

25X1 [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] // Marcos has publicly admitted a "deep crisis" in the negotiations, and his defense secretary has approached US officials regarding expeditious delivery of US arms in preparation for renewed fighting. The hard-line positions of both sides cloud prospects for salvaging the talks. [redacted]

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25X1 [redacted]

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